

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed May 13, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-15, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,768,720 (Kamstra) and U.S. Patent No. 6,917,587 (Sarkar). Further, the Examiner objected to claim 16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that this claim would be allowable if re-written in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 16 includes patentable subject matter.

By this response, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9, and 12 to include subject matter from allowable claim 16. Applicant has cancelled claim 16. By making these amendments, Applicant does not acquiesce in any of the claim rejections. However, Applicant has made the claim amendments without prejudice in order to expedite prosecution. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the rejected claims in a continuing application.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that each of independent claims 1, 9, and 12 are allowable. And since each of claims 2-4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13-15, 17, and 18 depends from an allowable independent claim, Applicant submits that claims 2-4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13-15, 17, and 18 are also allowable. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner wish to discuss this case with the undersigned, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (312) 913-3351.

Respectfully submitted,

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